

Interagency Council on Homelessness Workgroup: Department of Health Services

Secretary-designee Andrea Palm
October 14, 2020



DHS Divisions and Homelessness

- Division of Medicaid Services
- Division of Care and Treatment Services
- Division of Public Health
- Division of Quality Assurance
- Division of Enterprise Services

- COVID-19 Response Team

COVID-19 Response Team

Working together to tackle the challenges we face during the COVID-19 pandemic here in Wisconsin

CRT Leadership

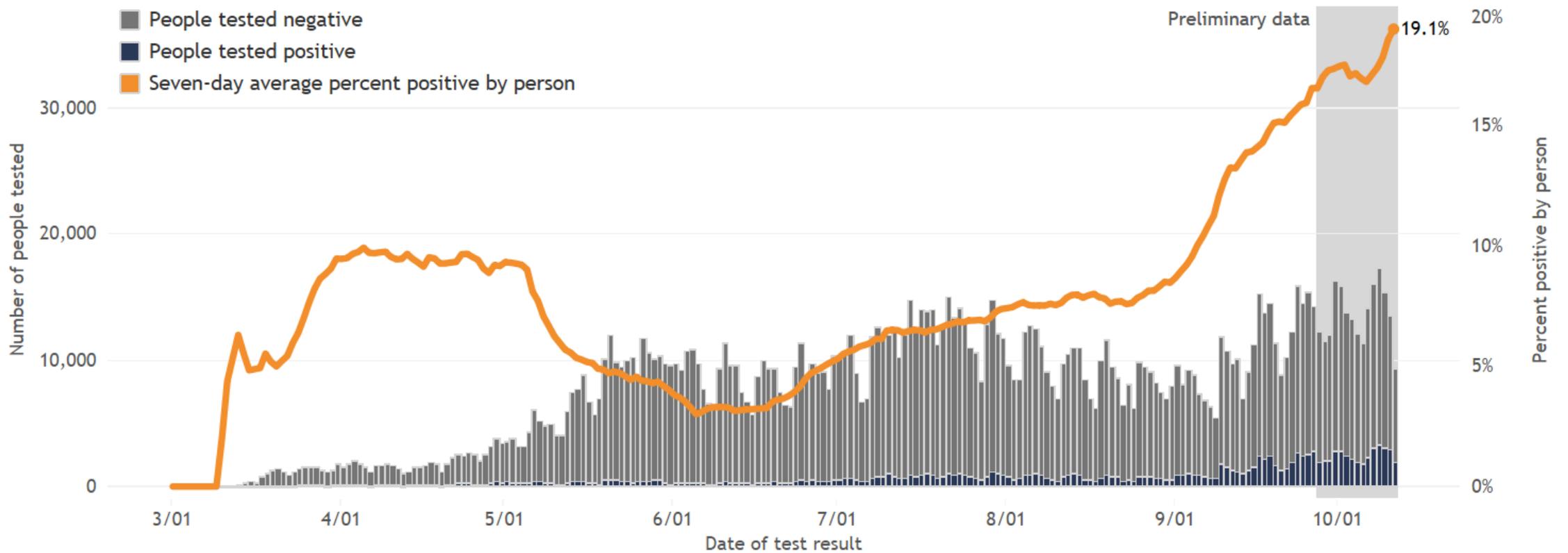
- Melanie Schmidt, Director
- Ruth Sullivan, Deputy Director

State Emergency Operations Center:

Alfred Johnson, Emergency Support Function 6

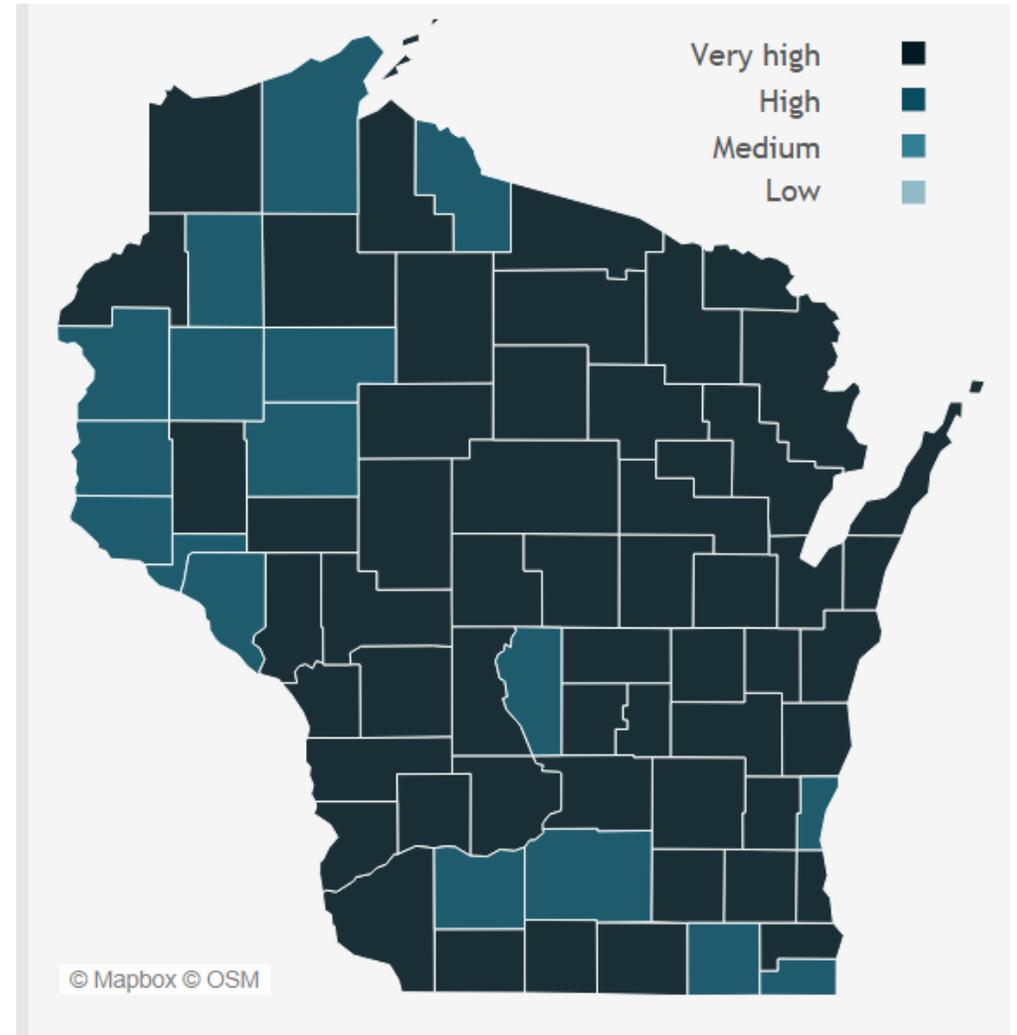
Outbreak Trends in Wisconsin

Updated: 10/12/2020



Disease Activity in Wisconsin

- Very High disease activity across most Wisconsin counties
- High levels of community transmission



COVID-19 Response Structure

Community
Testing

Contact
Tracing

Surveillance

Vaccination

Harm
Reduction and
Prevention

Addressing Social Needs

- Connecting individuals and families to resources
- Supporting local public health and community partners serving housing-vulnerable individuals
- Consulting with partners on infection prevention strategies
- Partnering with trusted messengers to create relevant informational resources
- Isolation and quarantine solutions for individuals and families experiencing housing insecurity

Opportunities for Collaboration

- Continuing visibility on social determinants of health (housing recognized as critical to individual and population health)
- Connecting subject matter experts across agencies to address cross-sectional needs and issues (multi-disciplinary teams)
- Expanding collaborative efforts on information dissemination and connecting individuals and families to existing resources, services

Emergency Support Function 6

- Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services
- Weekly Zoom calls with CoCs, DOA Interagency Council on Homelessness, Wisconsin Emergency Management staff, FEMA
- Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

Division of Medicaid Services (DMS)

Improving lives through high value programs and services that increase wellbeing and promote independence.

DMS Leadership

- Jim Jones, Medicaid Director
- Anna Benton, Deputy Medicaid Director
- Curtis Cunningham, Assistant Administrator
- Marlia Mattke, Assistant Administrator
- Krista Willing, Assistant Administrator

Health Care and Food Programs

- BadgerCare Plus
- Care4Kids
- Wisconsin Medicaid
- Children Come First
- Wraparound Milwaukee
- Family Planning Only Services
- Long-Term Care Programs
- Katie Beckett
- Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP)
- Prescription Drug Programs
- Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program (WCDDP)
- Wisconsin Well Woman Program
- FoodShare Wisconsin

Benefit Areas

Federal Mandatory Benefits

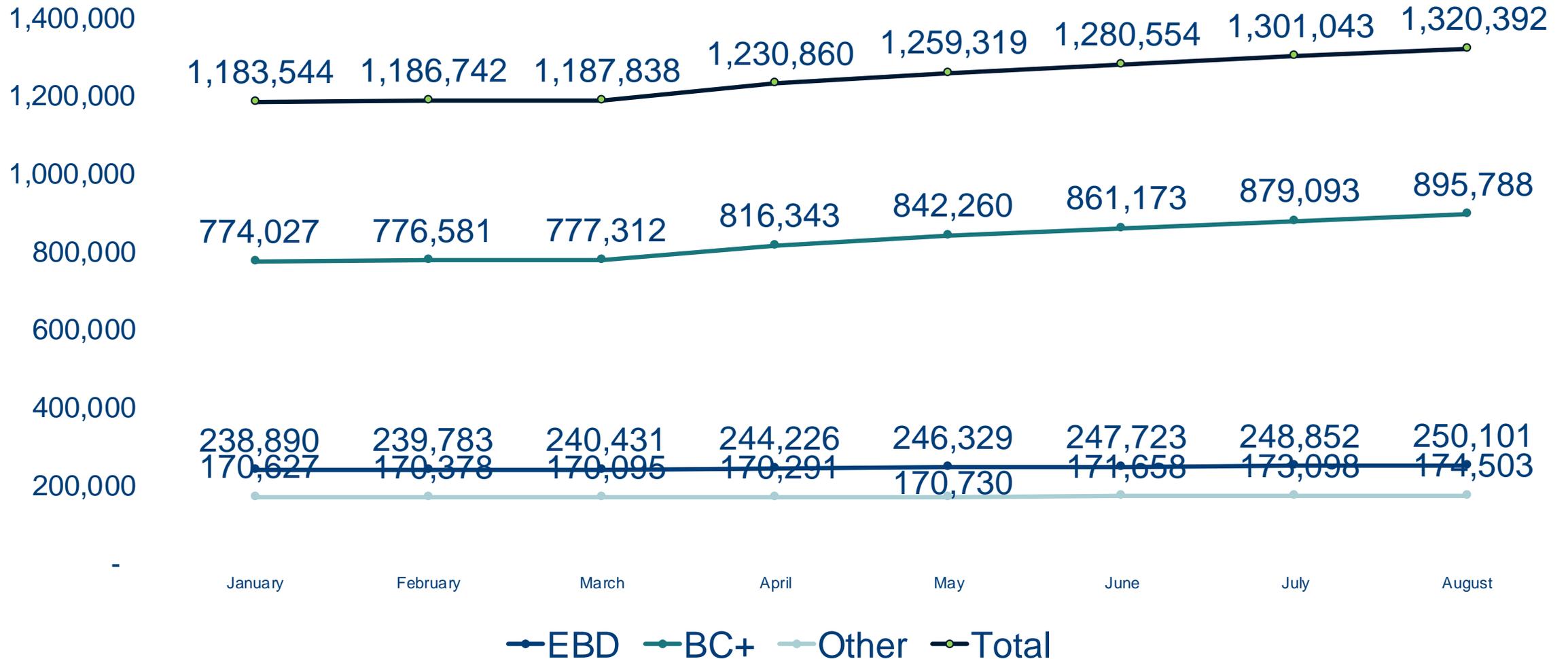
- Inpatient hospital services
- Outpatient hospital services
- EPSDT: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Services
- Nursing Facility Services
- Home health services
- Physician services
- Laboratory and X-ray services
- Family planning services
- Nurse Midwife services
- Certified Pediatric and Family Nurse Practitioner services
- Freestanding Birth Center services
- Transportation to medical care
- Tobacco cessation counseling for pregnant women

Benefit Areas

Optional Benefits that Wisconsin Medicaid Covers

- Prescription Drugs
- Speech, hearing and language disorder services
- Respiratory care services
- Podiatry services
- Dental Services
- Chiropractic services
- Private duty nursing services
- Personal Care
- Hospice
- Case management
- TB Related Services
- Health Homes for Enrollees with Chronic Conditions

2020 Medicaid Trends



Homelessness Related Activities

- Medicaid Health Plan Environmental Scan
- Homeless Management Information System Data Match
- Housing-Related Supports in Medicaid
- SUPPORT Act Activities
- Suspension, not termination, for members who become incarcerated
- Stakeholder Engagement

COVID-19 Response: High-level Policy and Regulatory Changes

- No disenrollment of BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid members unless requested or caused by a move out of state
- Postponed renewals
- Suspension of premiums
- Suspension of the treatment needs question
- Temporary exemption from MAPP work requirements
- Presumptive Eligibility expanded to the elderly, blind and disabled population
- Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer

Division of Care and Treatment Services

Improving quality of life for individuals and
communities by promoting hope, health, healing

DCTS Leadership

- Rose Kleman, Administrator
- Holly Audley, Deputy Administrator
- Gynger Steele, Deputy Administrator
- Teresa Steinmetz, Director, Bureau of Prevention, Treatment & Recovery

Programs and Services

- DCTS supports public behavioral health services.
- Community-based services primarily are administered by county agencies.
- Examples of these services include:
 - Emergency/crisis services
 - Comprehensive Community Services
 - Community Support Programs
 - Community Recovery Services

Programs and Services

For clients experiencing or at-risk for homelessness, the priority of all programs is to assist the client in securing stable housing.

Homelessness-Related Activities

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

- Federal and state funds support people with serious mental illness experiencing or at-risk for homelessness.
- Eight agencies receive funding to provide outreach, screening, treatment, and support services in eight counties (Brown, Dane, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Racine, Rock, and Waukesha).
- In the last contract period (July 2019-June 2020), 1,582 were contacted and 865 were enrolled in the program.

Homelessness-Related Activities

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)

- Designed to increase access to SSI/SSDI for people with a serious mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorder experiencing or at risk for homelessness.
- Five agencies receiving funding to work people in the Fox Valley region, La Crosse County, Milwaukee County, Racine County, and Waukesha County.

COVID-19 Response - Funding

- Provided one-time grants to counties and tribes to enhance local behavioral health services.
- Provided funding to Wisconsin 211 to help in their response to a growing number of contacts related to behavioral health.
- Awarded federal grant to support behavioral health projects in specific counties.
- Awarded federal grant to support crisis counseling services in counties identified as high need.

COVID-19 Response – New Initiatives

- Launched Resilient Wisconsin, a resource for strategies for practicing self-care, maintaining social connections, and reducing stress and anxiety.
- Launched a new call center to handle Wisconsin-based calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

COVID-19 Response – Facilities

Winnebago Mental Health Institute in Oshkosh continues to accept patients referred by county agencies.

Thank you for your work
and your continued collaboration!

Contact Information

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